CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

25X1

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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Description of Mine

1. The Kanon Cobalt Mine (rudnik Kanon) was located on the right bank of the Seymchan River in a hill about 600 m high.[1] The mine was worked all year round. This w 25X1 the only cobalt mine known in the region. There was coablt ore only on the west side of the hill. One shaft had been driven toward the east side, but only sulpnite (sulfit) and quartz were found and the attempt had been given up. 25X1 new efforts were to be made in depth. In 1946/1947, when this mine was opened, engineers had been helping in the survey and planning 25X1 of the mine. no search for new mines at this place. The ore contained only cobalt and some sulphite and was found in rocks that were common gray in color, with some shiny specks in them.

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2. The mine had seven horizontal mine tunnels (see attachment for sketch of mine and legend on page 4). The main tunnel, No. 4, was at the foot of the hill. These 25X1 tunnels were two to three m high. A road led up the hill, and every 100 m a tunnel led into the hill. At the entrance to each section, there was a small hut which served as office for the chief of the shift (nachalnik smeny) and the head of the brigade. There was a small stove there where miners would warm themselve 25X1 on coming out of the mine. The temperature inside the mine varied little in

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STATE	x	ARMY	x	NAVY	x	AIR	x	FBI		AEC					

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either summer or winter. It was always around 30 degrees centigrade. Above Tunnel or Section (uchastok) No. 4, there were sections Nos. 3, 2, and 1, in that order. The top tunnel was called the eighth gallery (vosmaya shtolnya). Access to Sections Nos. 5 and 6 was through Section No. 4. In Section No. 5, there was a shaft which had been abandoned. There used to be a skip in it. In 1950, there was no section No. 7, but source heard that it was to be dug under Section No. 6. Each tunnel or shaft had a small mine railroad, the cars of which were pushed by hand.

Mining Operation

3. Only one side of each tunnel or shaft served as a working face. On the opposite side, there were strings of electric light bulbs. Along the face, shafts were dug in an upward slant manner, so that the ore could be dropped down chute-like. At the lower end were mine drawers (lyuk) which held the ore as it fell from the place where it was exploded. The drawers were closed in the bottom by about four sticks (palka). One or more sticks could be pulled as needed to let the ore fall into the mining car.

4. To break up the solid rock of the face, areas about two x two m were drilled full of holes. The distance between the holes varied with the hardness of the rock, from 30 to 50 cm. The holes were drilled with a 30-kg or 50-kg pneumatic drill (molotok [sic: hammer] or kolonka), and cleaned out. A cartridge (kapsula) was put into each hole, blown up, and the ore fell behind the mine drawers. The drawers were opened above the car, and the ore fell down or was pushed with shovels. Each car held 500 kg of ore.

5. In Sections Nos. 1, 2, 3, and the eighth gallery, the full carts were pushed by hand to a shaft and the ore dumped down the shaft, 1.5 to 2 m in diameter, which led down to Section No. 4. The height of these shafts varied from section to section. The highest was 400 m and led down from the eighth gallery. These shafts were dug into the main rock and required no metal or wood for reinforcement. From Sections Nos. 5 and 6, the ore was brought up to Section No. 4 by a skip (lebedka).

6. In Section No. 4, there was an electric train (elektrovoz) which took the ore to the small factory about 600 m away. The cars on this train had a 1,000-kg capacity.

7. The original tunnels were bored in the same way as the work at the faces. This work was done by cutters (zaboyshchik).

8. The blocks (blok) were numbered, but there seemed to be no regular pattern. In a given tunnel, the block numbers might run 46, 52, 38, in that order.

Power Supply

9. The electric power was furnished by a sub-station located between the mine and the factory. The energy was furnished by the power station at Elgen Ugol (N 62-54, E 151-46).

Manpower and Production Norms

10. About 300 male political prisoners worked in the factory and about 500 in the mine. In addition, there were about 100 free workers, most of them former prisoners who had stayed on after completion of their sentences. The other 300 to 400 prisoners of Camp Kanon were employed on the road and in the woods.[2] Political prisoners received no pay until May 1952. Criminal prisoners were always paid, but there were none at this mine.

11. There were two shifts of 12 hours each, but they did not start at the same time in all the sections. In Sections Nos. 1, 2, and 8, the shifts started at 0700 and 1900; in Sections Nos. 3, 4, 5, and 6, they started at 1300 and 0100. The six-hour difference was established to avoid crowding. In each section there was one brigade,

consisting of 30 to 50 workers, about evenly divided between borers (burilshchik) and haulers (otkashchik). There were a few more haulers than borers.

12. Haulers worked in teams of two. Their norm varied according to the distance from the chutes, as follows:

a. At 20 m from the chute the norm was 70 cars of 500 kg.

b. At 50 m from the chute the norm was 30 cars of 500 kg.

c. At 200 m from the chute the norm was 15 cars of 500 kg.

[redacted] 25X1

The difference was due largely to the physical strength of the workers and the energy they put into their work.

13. The food consisted of bread, porridge (kasha), soup, and tea. According to the manner in which a worker fulfilled his norm, the quantity of food he received varied as follows:

Norm	100%	110%	90%
Bread	800 gr	900 gr	500 gr
Kasha	200 gr	500 gr	200 gr
Tea	200 gr	200 gr	200 gr
Soup	(Not specified)		

14. [redacted] there were only two engineers at the mine, [redacted] 25X1
A Russian Jew, Kaydenko (fnu), was head of Sections Nos. 1, 2, and 3; 25X1
a Georgian, Roynashvili (fnu), was head of a shift.

Cobalt Factory

15. The factory was 500 or 600 m from the mine (see attachment). [redacted] 25X1
the refined cobalt was put into 50-kg canvas bags and believed they were probably sent to Omsk.

Conditions in the Mine

16. [redacted] 25X1

prison was warmer than the mine, and one was not subject to silicosis and other diseases which affected the mine workers. Many Germans who worked hard and other laborers died in the camp.

1. [redacted] Comment: Kanon is probably the same as Bolshoy Kanon (approximately N 63-33, E 151-25) on the Bolshoy Kanon River, a tributary of the Seymchan River. 25X1

2. [redacted] 25X1

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Annotations for Sketch of Kanon Cobalt Mine

Plan of Kanon Cobalt Mine

A. Front view and cross section of mine.

B. A block.

C. Top view of mine chute.

A. Mine

1. Road to Sections Nos. 3, 2, 1, and eighth gallery.
2. Mine chute.
3. Skip
4. Power sub-station.
5. Factory.
6. Place where a tunnel had been extended to side of hill.
7. Abandoned skip.

B. Block

1. Faces.
2. Mine drawers.
3. Mine cars, 500 kg.

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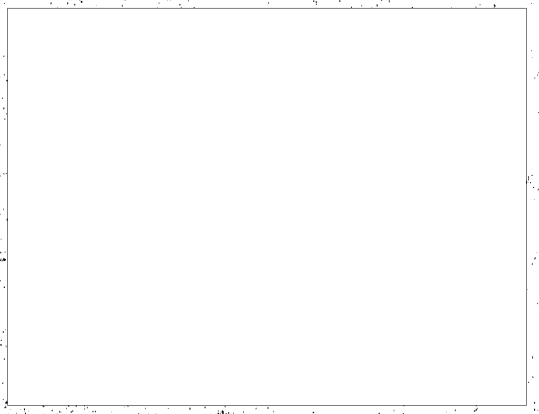

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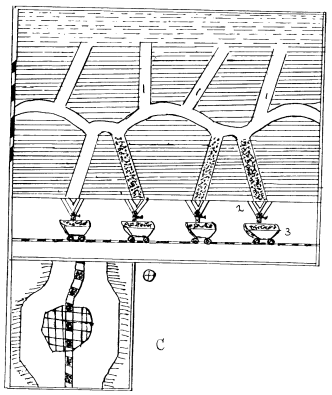

Sketch of Kanon Cobalt Mines